

INTRODUCTION

The Holy Spirit transforms us from the inside out, and our spiritual influence grows as we yield to Him. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus states that we are to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16), seasoning and lighting the world with good deeds that glorify God. How does the Spirit transform us so that we can accomplish this?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is condemnation? Have you ever felt condemned? What made you feel that way?
2. Read Romans 8:1-2. If there is no condemnation for believers, should we ever have feelings of guilt? Why or why not?
3. Read Romans 8:3-6 and Galatians 5:19-21. What characterizes a life lived according to the flesh?
4. Read Galatians 5:16. What do you think it means to ‘walk by the Spirit’?
5. What we commonly call ‘the fruit of the Spirit’ is listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Have you experienced this fruit in your life?
6. Read the following passages and note what the Holy Spirit’s role is in each of them:

John 14:26 _____

John 16:8 _____

John 16:13 _____

Acts 1:8 _____

Acts 9:31 _____

1 Corinthians 12:11 _____

Ephesians 1:13-14 _____

Study Questions for Community Groups

7. Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. Does this passage help you to understand your part in the transformation process?
8. Read Galatians 3:2-3. Why do our best efforts to transform ourselves often end up in frustration, exhaustion and desperation? (See Romans 7:14-25.)

APPLICATION

Look again at the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Add to that list some of the other godly characteristics that we are called to pursue (Colossians 3:12-14; 2 Peter 1:5-7). What are some clear and practical ways that you can influence the people around you if you allow yourself to walk by the Spirit?

SCRIPTURE

“¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.”

Romans 8:1-6 (NIV)